

CBS EVENING NEWS  
1 November 1984

MCLAUGHLIN: In Moscow today, while Soviet President Konstantin Chernenko was signing the book of condolences at the Indian Embassy, Pravda said that the 'CIA and State Department supported Sikh extremist groups in India.' And Radio Moscow's overseas service called Mrs. Gandhi's death part of a 'chain of conspiracies that the U.S. aimed at Third World leaders.' So before leaving for India today to attend the Gandhi funeral, Secretary of State George Shultz lashed out at the Soviet campaign to blame the U.S. for her assassination, a charge administration officials said could endanger the lives of Americans in India. Despite Moscow's charges, sources at the State Department said plans were still on to arrange a meeting in India between Shultz and Soviet Prime Minister Nikolai Tikhonov. U.S. intelligence officials say that while the Soviet allegations are absurd, they are very dangerous. The memory here of attacks on U.S. citizens in embassies like the one in Pakistan in 1979 is still very strong, so there is the real concern that the Soviet propaganda campaign could endanger the lives of Americans in India. Bill McLaughlin, CBS News, the State Department. <